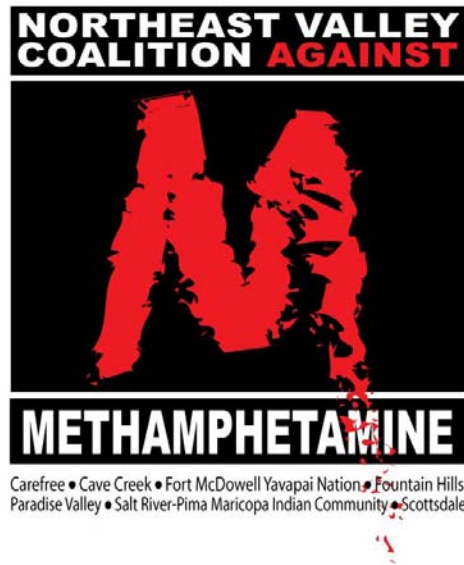


## ANTI-METH COALITION OVERVIEW

The Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families and the Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention have provided funding to twenty-two existing or new anti-methamphetamine coalitions for participation in an "Anti-Meth" Initiative focused on implementation of community-based environmental prevention strategies.

Phase I: In year one, funding has been provided to support the development of coalitions (existing or new), to organize their coalition and develop a strategic plan which may include conducting a community needs assessment.

Phase II: In years two and three, funding will be provided to support implementation of community based environmental prevention strategies.



## NORTHEAST VALLEY COALITION AGAINST METHAMPHETAMINE

The Northeast Valley Coalition Against Methamphetamine is a new coalition formed by five municipalities and two tribal communities. They are: Carefree, Cave Creek, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Fountain Hills and Paradise Valley, Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community, and Scottsdale. The formation of the Northeast Valley Coalition Against Methamphetamine allows Scottsdale and surrounding communities to assess the problem of methamphetamine use and production and develop strategies to reduce and eliminate this public safety threat.

Sixty participants attended the initial meeting of the Coalition on Thursday, April 27, 2006 at Scottsdale Community College located in the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community. Participants heard from Governor Napolitano's staff about the Arizona Anti-Meth Initiative, and from panelists from the business, education, health care and law enforcement sectors about the impact of methamphetamine. Participants also discussed community strengths and brainstormed possible actions that could be taken by the new Coalition.

The second meeting of the Coalition was held on Thursday, May 25, 2006 in Fountain Hills. At this meeting 33 participants from the seven member communities discussed the vision and mission of the Coalition. The mission statement for the coalition will be: "The Coalition will empower and engage the community to become meth free through education, awareness, and providing access to resources."

There were 25 participants at the third meeting on June 22. The coalition decided on the vision statement "We are inspired and working toward a meth free community." The group identified four key directions as the initial focus of their work: 1) Conduct a needs assessment to get good data and information on the meth issue, 2) Create an inventory of existing community resources to address the impacts of meth including treatment options and resources for children and families

impacted by meth, 3) Discuss how to best present the data for the intended audiences and 4) Identify the best ways and channels to distribute the information. Participants also discussed how to organize the coalition. There was agreement to have a steering committee of 7-11 members, subcommittees organized by key issue (enforcement, education, treatment, etc.), as well as monthly full coalition meetings during the planning process (through Dec. 2006) and less frequently once implementation begins.

There were 20 participants at the fourth meeting on July 27. After just four meetings, there are now 56 members of the coalition. Participants discussed goals and objectives for the next six months and are forming into three subcommittees that will focus on the three key goals of coalition building, needs assessment and creating a resource directory. It was agreed to request \$25,000 from Salt River's 12 percent grant monies to help support implementation of the coalition's goals. It was also agreed to use \$4,000 in coalition funds for continued use of the facilitator's services during the planning stage. The City will be hosting a training session for interested coalition members on August 18. The State's technical assistance consultant will be providing the training aimed at assisting coalitions in conducting needs assessments.

There were 18 participants at the August 24 coalition meeting hosted by the Cave Creek school district. After five meetings, there are now 60 members of the coalition. Participants discussed the key consequences of meth use deciding to focus on five areas in more detail through the Community Needs Assessment process. These areas are: 1) fraud, counterfeit and forgery; 2) child abuse and neglect; 3) domestic violence; 4) burglaries and theft and 5) the impacts of meth use on foster care. In addition, five coalition members attended the State's needs assessment training on Friday, August 18.

On Sept. 21, 85 community members attended the presentations by the Attorney General, Lt. Steve Gesell, and Donald Santeo, coalition member, at the Mayor and Council Breakfast. Representatives from the Attorney General's Office, the Coalition, Crystal Meth Anonymous, Healthy Families AZ and notMykid also provided resources to attendees.

There were 42 participants at the September 28 coalition meeting at Fort McDowell Recreation Center. Gwen Bahe, Fort McDowell community member and former tribal councilwoman, shared about her experiences as a mother of a meth addict. In addition, Detective Jamie Lomay from the Salt River Police Department shared about anti-meth efforts in their community. The Coalition is in the process of selecting steering team members to lead the coalition efforts. Participants also worked on the Community Needs Assessment and Resource Inventory during the meeting.

The next Coalition meeting has been scheduled for October 26 at the Paiute Neighborhood Center and the Coalition will also meet at the Horizon Community Center on November 16.

Additional information about the Coalition, including the complete meeting notes, is on-line at: <http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/safety/drugs/>.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Brent Stockwell, Assistant to Mayor/Council, City of Scottsdale  
Direct: (480) 312-7288  
Email: [BStockwell@ScottsdaleAZ.gov](mailto:BStockwell@ScottsdaleAZ.gov)  
Web: <http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/safety/drugs/>